ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry,

Concerning MATTERS

Ecclesiastical;

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of every Parish within the

DIOCESE of *EXETER*.

In the PRIMARY VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

THOMAS

By Divine Permission

Lord Bishop of *EXETER*

London, Printed for *James Collins*, in the Temple-Passage without *Temple-Bar*, 1677.

32

The Form of a Church-Wardens Oath.

YOU ſhall ſwear, truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Church-Warden within your Pariſh: And according to the beſt of your skill and knowledge, preſent ſuch Things and Perſons, as to your knowledge are preſentable by the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm.

So help you God, and the Contents of this Book.

ARTICLES

OF

Visitation and Enquiry,

Within the

DIOCESE of *EXETER.*

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments, and Furniture thereunto belonging.

I. IS your Parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate; the Windows well glazed, the Flores well paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed; and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the house of God?

II. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto been imbezelled, sold or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard therein.

III. Is there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism? Doth your Minister Baptize publickly only in the Font? And is there in your Chancel a decent Communion-Table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff or fine Woollen Cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup or Chalice, with a Cover of Silver and one or more Flagons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging? Are they prophaned by common uses?

IV. Have you in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer, lately published, Anno 1662. both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? and a printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministration in the Church, provided, and to be duly washed at the charge of your Parish?

VI. Have you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish, together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the Day, Month, and Year of all such Christenings, Marriages and Burials? and is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25 of March, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. Have you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accounts: together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all the aforementioned Furniture, in safe Custody? and lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. Is your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? have any Trees there growing been cut down, how long since, by whom, and to whose use and benefit?

II. Is

II. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate (with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or have any of the said Houses or Out-houses been defaced or pulled down without license from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage House? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

IV. Have any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and license from the Ordinary? by whom hath the same been made, and how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister defamed, or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

II. Hath he been legally inducted into his Benefice?

III. Did he within two months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice among you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it?

V. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? Who is that Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church

Church of England? and doth he serve in any other Church beside; and what yearly stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration of the same; And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book, to far as you have observed?

VII. Doth your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice?

VIII. Doth he observe the Holy days, and Fasting-days, as also the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common-Prayer-Book is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

IX. Hath your Minister been licensed to preach by the Bishop? If so, doth he then constantly (unless in case of Sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself Preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindered by Sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid; doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon?

X. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty, in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. Doth he neglect or refuse to visit the Sick or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he use to Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers? or admit either

ther of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

XII. Hath he at any time (as you know or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity of either Church or State?

XIII. Hath he presumed to Marry any persons in private houses? or such as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents? or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holydays in the Church? or at any other hours than between eight and twelve in the morning, unless he had a Licence or Dispensation so to do?

XIV. Doth any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-Prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophesyings, or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable, and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses? a common Gamester, a Swearer, Railer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker: or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish or without? Is his apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuse to come unto the Publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church? or that makes profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England, and if there be any such, what are their names?

II. Is there any person in your Parish that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, and discord amongst their Neighbours.

III. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holidays, follow their bodily or ordinary labour, or permit their Servants so to do? Are any shops kept open, or Wares sold? or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

IV. Doth every person inhabiting, and sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday and Holiday appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly, with reverence, order, and decency, during all the whole time of Common-Prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to Common-Prayers of the Church?

V. Doth every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read making due Reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned?

VI. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case the Child may be Baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them from their own Minister to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth?

loweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish, as yet unbaptized?

VII. Doth every Housholder in your Parish cause their children and servants to come to Church to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holidays, as in the Book of Common-Prayer is appointed; that when they are well instructed in the same they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. Is there any person in your Parish, who being sixteen years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same, kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers, not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

IX. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? how long have they been so excommunicated? and do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. Are there any living in your Parish as Man and Wife who are within the degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated, or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

XI. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who, after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

XII. Are there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their duty for Easter-Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute and pay the Rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture, and Ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there? Have you a Rate confirmed by your Ordinary?

XIII. Do any refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved? Or any Goods administred, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any, dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel? what were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. Doth he, or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to your doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from Dust, Cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he Toll or Ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours, before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the Grace and Favour of God?

TIT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

I. IS there in your Parish, any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School, not of the Kings Foundation or Patronage? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue or Stipend belonging to the Governors or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as in ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants and ordinances

nances as have been made concerning the same?

II. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Ordinary? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holydays orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. Doth any man in your Parish practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Queries to be put to the Minister, concerning the Church-wardens and Side-men.

I. ARe the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of the Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the monies remaining in their hands together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel.

III. Do the Church-wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of the Parishioners be absent from the Divine-Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holidays? and if they find any of them to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do they by warrant from some of the Justices of Peace levy of them, by way of distress upon their goods, the sum of 12 pence for every such day of their absence according to the Act of Parliament in that case provided? And do they distribute the several sums so levied among the Poor of your Parish, according to the Law?

IV. Do they present them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do they suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-porch, or to walk in the Church or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. Do they suffer no mis-behaviour or disorder to be done by men, women, or servants, or children in your Church or Chappel? Are they

they careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do they permit no Minstrels, no Morris-dancers, no Dogs, Bawds, or Hounds, to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation.

VI. Do they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. Do they cause all Strangers that Preach in your Church or Chappel to subscribe their Names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop that licensed them to Preach in this Diocese: and do they permit no other to preach?

VIII. Have they (the Church-wardens and Side-men) now sworn to give in a true answer, unto all these Articles of Enquiry in all their several Titles, taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments, and therein consulted with you their Minister for your faithful assistance.

FOR know you assuredly, that as the true discharge of your Office is the chief means whereby publick Disorders, Sins and Offences in your Parish may be reformed and punished: So if you wilfully refuse to present such crimes and faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame; That, in such cases, the Ordinary and his Officers are to proceed against you in their Ecclesiastical Courts, as in cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

THOMAS EXON.

THE Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the Names of such of the younger sort in their several Parishes, as they judg fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to be Confirmed; especially such as having competently learned their Catechism, have not yet received the Holy Communion; and to present them to the Bishop to be Confirmed, as there shall be opportunity.

FINIS.